



Rural District Council of Bromsgrove

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
of the  
**Medical Officer of Health**  
and the  
**Chief Public Health Inspector**  
for the year

1971



RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BROMSGROVE  
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
FOR THE YEAR 1971

Chairman of the Council	E. G. CASH ESQ.
Vice-Chairman of the Council	J. C. BEECH ESQ.
Chairman of the Public Health Committee	A. H. HODGETTS ESQ.

#### MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

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E. G. CASH ESQ.,	G. A. SOUTH ESQ .,
A. H. CHATTIN ESQ.,	

## STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health	C. H. PHILLIPS. M.R.C.S. L.R.C.P. D.P.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector	P.P.CHAMINGS, F.A.P.H.I A.R.S.H. (Cert.Meat and Foods Inspector)
Deputy Public Health Inspector	R.F.ROBINS, M.A.P.H.I. (Cert.Meat and Foods Inspector)
Assistant Public Health Inspector	K. J. SMITH
Assistant Public Health Inspector	R. J. LORD (Until 28/2/71)
Clerks	MRS. A. SIDWELL (Until 20/8/71) MISS.S. POTTER ( From 16/8/71) MISS.J. TAYLOR (From 9/8/71)

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

BROMSGROVE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting this report on the health of the Community in the Rural District of Bromsgrove in 1971.

Dr. Phillips retired owing to ill health at the end of this year and as I did not commence duties until February 1972, I am unable to comment personally on the events of the year.

Commenting on the statistics for the year it is of significance that the birth rate continues to fall while the death rate has risen a little. The infant mortality rate is rather high this year owing to several deaths of infants from Congenital conditions. These are largely unavoidable.

Regarding the deaths, there is a significant drop in deaths from all forms of cancer and also from cancer of the lung. Total cancer cases in 1970 were 80 (27.5%) and in 1971 were 69 (21.8%). On the other hand there is a significant rise in deaths from circulatory disease largely due to a rise in deaths from coronary heart disease. This latter condition which frequently causes sudden death in fairly young people is very much on the increase. There were 82 cases of this condition this year compared with 62 in 1970.

I must sincerely thank the staff of the Public Health Department for their invaluable help in compiling this report. I would also like to add my great appreciation for the warm welcome I have had from all the Councillors and staff of this very pleasant Rural District.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your Obedient Servant,

M. JOAN CASH

Medical Officer of Health.

## SECTION A

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres 45,071

Registrar General's estimate of resident population	Mid 1971	-	36,430
	Mid 1970	-	37,450
	Mid 1947	-	25,230
	Mid 1937	-	19,260
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Book	End of 1971	-	12,173
	End of 1970	-	12,037
	End of 1969	-	11,896
	End of 1968	-	11,765
	End of 1967	-	11,380
	End of 1947	-	7,798
	End of 1937	-	6,645
Rateable Value 1st April 1971		£1,585,081	
Sum represented by a New Penny Rate at 1st April 1971			£16,000

### POPULATION OF PARISHES

	<u>1939</u>	<u>Estimated.</u>	<u>1971</u>
Alvechurch	3,236		6,120
Belbroughton	2,676		2,560
Bentley Pauncefoot	344		330
Beoley	770		800
Clent	1,943		2,420
Cofton Hackett	3,736		2,080
Dodford-with-Grafton	513		630
Frankley	184		140
Hagley	2,223		5,810
Hunnington	543		660
Romsley	1,070		1,810
Stoke Prior	2,130		2,900
Tutnall & Cobley	697		910
Wythall	4,482		9,260
	<u>24,557</u>		<u>36,430</u>

Average per house 2.99

VITAL STATISTICS

(1970 figures in brackets)

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	M	F	Total
Legitimate	259 (278)	238 (270)	497 (548)
Illegitimate	12 (14)	16 (4)	28 (18)
	<u>271</u> (292)	<u>254</u> (274)	<u>525</u> (566)

Birth Rate (Births per 1,000 population)

	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1937</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>Eng. Wales</u>
Crude	14.5	15.10	16.40	17.06	14.1	16.0	(16.0)
Comparability	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93			
Factor							
Standardised	13.5	14.00	15.30	15.86			

Illegitimacy Rate (total live illegitimate births per hundred total Live Births)

	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1937</u>
	5.00	3.18	3.60	4.72	3.20

STILL BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	4	5 (3)
Illegitimate	-	-	- (-)
	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u> (3)

Still Birth Rate (Still births per 1,000 total live and still births)

	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1937</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>Eng. Wales</u>
	9.00	5.27	8.11	9.36	38.1	12.0	(13.0)

DEATHS

	M	F	Total
	170 (152)	151 (139)	321 (291)

DEATH RATE (Deaths per 1,000 population)

	1971	1970	1969	1968	1937	1971	Eng. Wales
Crude	8.9	7.8	9.1	7.47	11.1	11.6	(11.7)
Comparability							
Factor	1.12	1.12	1.10	1.11			
Standardised	10.00	8.7	10.00	8.29			

## Major Causes of Death (Percentages of Total Deaths)

	1971	1970	1969	1968
Disease of the				
Circulatory System	52.9%	43.6%	46.6%	44.9%
Malignant Diseases	21.80%	27.5%	16.9%	21.2%
Respiratory Diseases	12.1%	12.4%	13.6%	14.7%
(excluding T.B)				

MATERNAL DEATHS.

## Maternal Mortality (Maternal Deaths per 1,000 total live and still births)

1971	1970	1969	1968	1937	1971	Eng. Wales
NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	0.17	(0.19)

INFANT AND NEONATAL DEATHS

## Infant Deaths (under 1 year of age)

	M	F	Total
Legitimate	7	7	14 (9)
Illegitimate	-	-	- (-)
	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>14 (9)</u>

Neonatal Deaths (Under 4 weeks of age)

	M	F	Total
Legitimate	5	5	10 (8)
Illegitimate	-	-	- (-)
	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u> (8)

Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age

Legitimate	5	3	8 (6)
Illegitimate	-	-	- (-)
	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>8</u> (6)

Infant and Neonatal Mortality Rates.

	1971	1970	1969	1968	1971 Eng. Wales
Deaths of legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	28.0	16.41	15.28	16.52	17.0
Deaths of illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	-	-	-	66.66	24.0
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age per 1000 total live births	19.0	14.13	13.09	14.17	12.0
Deaths of infants under 1 yr. of age per 1000 total live births	27.0	15.9	14.73	18.92	18.0
Still births and deaths under 1 wk. combined per 1000 total live and still births	25.0	15.9	21.10	21.84	22.0
Deaths of infants under 1 wk. of age per 1000 live births	15.0	10.60	13.09	12.59	10.0

Cause of Infant Deaths.

Congenital Malformation	6
Prematurity	2
Respiratory Disease	3
Birth Injury	1
Other Causes	2

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE BROMSGROVE RURAL DISTRICT

1971

Causes of death	M	F	Total	Mortality Rate per 1,000 pop.
B19(1) Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity Etc.	-	1	1	.03
B19(2) Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	2	-	2	.05
B19(3) Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	8	4	12	.33
B19(4) Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	5	2	7	.19
B19(6) Malignant Neoplasm, Lung Bronchus	12	4	16	.44
B19(7) Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	5	5	.13
B19(8) Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	4	4	.10
B19(9) Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	1	-	1	.03
B19(10) Leukaemia	4	-	4	.10
B19(11) Other Malignant Neoplasms	6	11	17	.46
B20 Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	1	-	1	.03
B21 Diabetes Mellitus	1	2	3	.08
B23 Anaemias	1	-	1	.03
B46(1) Other Endocrine etc, Diseases	1	3	4	.10
B24 Meningitis	1	-	1	.03
B46(5) Other diseases of Nervous System	1	1	2	.05
B46(4) Multiple Sclerosis	1	-	1	.03
B26 Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	2	5	7	.19
B27 Hypertensive Disease	4	3	7	.19
B28 Ischaemic Heart Disease	55	27	82	2.25
B29 Other Forms of Heart Disease	9	10	19	.52
B30 Cerebrovascular Disease	16	24	40	1.09
B46(6) Other Diseases of Circulatory System	3	12	15	.41
B32 Pneumonia	3	8	11	.30
B33(1) Bronchitis and Emphysema	7	5	12	.33
B33(2) Asthma	1	1	2	.05
B46(7) Other diseases of Respiratory System	3	1	4	.10
B34 Peptic Ulcer	5	-	5	.13
B36 Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	1	2	.05
B46(8) Other Diseases of Digestive System	2	-	2	.05
B38 Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	2	2	.05
B39 Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1	.03
B46(11) Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	-	3	3	.08
B42 Congenital Anomalies	3	5	8	.22
B43 Birth injury, Difficult labour, etc.	1	1	2	.05
B44 Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	2	-	2	.05
B45 Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	1	-	1	.03
BE47 Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	-	3	.08
BE48 All other Accidents	2	3	5	.13
BE49 Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	1	1	2	.05
BE50 All other External Causes	-	2	2	.05
TOTAL	170	151	321	10.0

## SECTION B

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

The County Council administers the antenatal, child welfare, school health, dental and specialist clinics, where much valuable work is done towards the preservation of the health of the community and the prevention of disease. Child Health Clinics are held as follows:-

<u>PARISH</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DAY AND TIME</u>
Alvechurch	The Village Hall Hopwood	1st and 3rd Wednesdays 2.p.m. 1st Tuesday.
Belbroughton	The Church Hall	1st Monday 2.30 pm.
Beoley	The Village Hall	3rd Wednesday 2.00 pm
Clent	The Parish Hall	2nd Monday 2.00 p.m.
Cofton Hackett	The Old Schools	2nd and 4th Tuesdays 2.00 pm
Hagley	The Parish Hall	Wednesday 2.00 pm
	Old Dixoniants Club Wassell Grove	1st Monday 2.00 pm
Romsley	Church Hall	1st Thursday 2.00 p.m.
Stoke Prior	The Village Hall Finstall	1st Monday 2.00 pm
Wythall	The Clinic Silver Street	Monday 2.00 pm

The Health Visiting, Home Nursing and Midwifery Services, provided by the County Council, supported by the services managed by the W.V.S. and the British Red Cross, continued to provide invaluable domiciliary help.

#### (a) Hospital Services

The following hospitals were available to the residents of the district:

Infectious Disease	Hayley Green Hospital, Halesowen Little Bromwich Fever Hospital, Birmingham
Tuberculosis	Hayley Green Sanatorium, Halesowen
Maternity	The General Hospital, Bromsgrove. Mary Stevens Maternity Hospital, Stourbridge Lucy Baldwins Maternity Hospital, Stourport The Birmingham Maternity Hospital, Birmingham
Childrens Diseases	Childrens Hospital, Birmingham.
Venereal Disease	General Hospital, Birmingham Royal Infirmary, Worcester.
Mental Illness	Barnsley Hall Mental Hospital, Bromsgrove. Powick Mental Hospital, Malvern.
Chest Surgery	Hill Top Hospital, Bromsgrove.
General	The General Hospital, Bromsgrove Bromsgrove Cottage Hospital, Smallwood Hospital, Redditch.
Aged Chronic Sick	The General Hospital, Bromsgrove.

(b) Laboratory Facilities

Bacteriological examinations were carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Royal Infirmary, Worcester. Chemical analysis of water and miscellaneous specimens was carried out by the County Laboratory at Worcester. I am indebted to the Directors of these laboratories for their ready assistance and co-operation.

(c) Ambulance Service

This is provided by the County Council and the Rural District is served from depots at Bromsgrove and Redditch.

(d) Health Education

The Council contributes to the Central Council for Health Education. Health Education is carried out mainly by the County Council.

(e) Meals on Wheels.

Meals on Wheels services were continued in the Hagley, Stoke Prior, and Wythall areas through the agency of the W.V.S. The total of meals delivered was as follows:-

Barnt Green	71
Hagley	2300
Stoke Prior	1184
Wythall	2264

1. Sanitary Inspection of the Area

The Chief Public Health Inspector in his report gives details of the Sanitary Inspections carried out during the year.

2. Water Supply

The whole supply of main water in the District is now the responsibility of various statutory water undertakings.

Most of the houses in the district were supplied with main piped water supplies which were satisfactory in quality and quantity. There were still, however, a few dwellings and farm premises with only well water supplies. These well supplies were to a large extent unsatisfactory and householders were advised to boil the water before use.

Routine sampling of drinking water from the remaining private wells, springs and boreholes for bacteriological and chemical analysis was continued, 66% of the samples being bacteriologically unsatisfactory.

Sampling at source of main supplies was done by the Water Undertakings.

During the year the following extensions of mains were effected :-

The City of Birmingham Water Department	1,875 yards
East Worcestershire Waterworks Company	920 yards
The South Staffordshire Waterworks Company	- -
North West Worcestershire Water Board	1,309 yards

The following was the position with regard to the schemes for water main extensions:-

Alvechurch

Bell Green Area      Approved in principle by Ministry of Housing and Local Government - in abeyance.

Stoke Prior

Upper Gambolds

In Abeyance

Tutnall & Cobley

Cobley Hill

In Abeyance

3. Drainage and Sewerage

The following are the sewage disposal works situated in the District and operated by this Authority :

Alvechurch	Lye Bridge
Clent	Hossill Lane
Belbroughton	Weybridge
Hagley	Sweetpool Lane
Hunnington	Illey Lane
Finstall	Pumping Station to Bromsgrove U.D.C
Stoke Prior	Henbrook Disposal Works, Shaw Lane

Following is a summary with regard to the programme of capital works of sewers and sewage disposal as recently considered by the Council:-

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Remarks.</u>
Alvechurch	Grange Lane and Rowney Green	Scheme prepared by Consulting Engineers for sewerage both areas in one contract has been approved by the Council and all land purchases that are necessary have been completed. The Secretary of State for the Environment has signified his approval of the scheme for loan sanction purposes. Instructions have been given to Consulting Engineers to prepare details to enable Tenders to be invited.
	Bordesley area	Sewers will drain to Redditch where disposal facilities are adequate. As there is now sufficient sewer capacity to convey sewage from Bordesley area the scheme is included in the rolling programme of locally determined schemes for commencement during the ensuing financial year. The Surveyor is preparing details to enable tenders to be invited and formal inclusion in the programme is recommended.
	Bittell Road and Bittell Lane	Previously referred to Consulting Engineers but no action taken by them pending receipt of result of tests to be conducted by Surveyor. Tests now in hand. Scheme included in rolling programme of locally determined schemes and it will be prepared by Surveyor for commencement during ensuing financial year and formal inclusion in the programme is recommended.

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Schemes</u>	<u>Remarks.</u>
Belbroughton	Storm overflow sewer Belbroughton village	Work completed.
	Reconstruction of disposal works Weybridge	Included in preparatory programme. Scheme in course of preparation by Consulting Engineers.
	Wildmoor	Included in rolling programme of locally determined schemes subsequent to 1975. Scheme to be prepared by Surveyor. Development in the locality tends to be scattered and it will mean the construction of some lengths of unproductive sewer.
Clent and Hagley	New outfall sewers to disposal works including resewering of Woodman Lane, Clent, & reconstruction of part of sewer off Middlefield Lane.	Work completed
	Improvement at disposal works	Included in rolling programme of locally determined schemes.
	Broome Lane	Council to bear cost of constructing sewer at Broome Lane, pay conveyance and treatment charges on gallonage basis and contribute a share of loan charges on capital cost of providing a larger works. To be undertaken by Kidderminster R.D.C. Scheme in hand.
Clent	Walton Pool	Included in rolling programme of locally determined schemes. Scheme to be prepared by Surveyor and scheduled to commence in 1974/75. Subject to formal inclusion in the programme as recommended.
	Thicknall Lane	Included in rolling programme of locally determined schemes. Scheme to be prepared by Surveyor for commencement subsequent to 1975.
Dodford with Grafton	Sewerage and construction of disposal works	Expenditure will be 'Key Sector'
Hunnington	Trunk sewer from Illey Lane disposal works to sewer of Upper Stour Main Drainage Authority.	Work completed.

Romsley	Romsley Hill	Included in rolling programme of locally determined schemes. Scheme to be prepared by Surveyor and scheduled to commence in 1973/74 subject to formal inclusion in the programme as recommended.
Stoke Prior	Henbrook Works reconstruction	Work completed.
	Stoke Pound	Included in rolling programme of locally determined schemes. Scheme to be prepared by Surveyor for commencement subsequent to 1975.
Wythall	Inkford and Tanners Green, Hill Lane, Birmingham Road, Barkers Lane & Mill Lane Branch and Dipple Lane.	Included in preparatory part of programme. Trunk sewer to be extended as far as Lowbrook bridge where it will receive <del>sewag.</del> from properties in Norton Lane. Subject to a detailed survey being made it will be available to receive sewage from Inkford and Tanners Green areas. Scheme almost completed by Consulting Engineers. Included in rolling programme and scheduled to commence in 1973/74.
	Shawbrook area	This scheme can proceed only when a new trunk sewer is constructed by the Upper Tame Main Drainage Authority. Sewer likely to be completed in 1972. Scheme included in rolling programme of locally determined schemes, will be prepared by Surveyor and is scheduled to commence in 1972/73 subject to formal inclusion in programme as recommended.
	Gorse Lane.	Included in rolling programme of locally determined schemes. Scheme to be prepared by Surveyor and scheduled to commence in 1972/73 subject to formal inclusion in programme as recommended.

During the past ten years the following schemes have been completed :-

Alvechurch	Lye Bridge Disposal works re-construction, Bittell Road, sewerage of; Village area, sewerage of part of
Belbroughton	Fairfield village area, sewerage of; Belbroughton Village - construction of storm overflow sewer.
Beoley	Holt End sewerage and sewage disposal.
Clent	Field Lane, sewerage of (part). Horse Pasture, abolition of old broad irrigation system and sewerage to Hagley disposal works. Relief sewer, Newfield Road.
Frankley	M5 service area, sewerage of
Hagley	Haybridge Avenue, sewerage of remainder of (minor scheme)

Hunnington	Trunk sewer from Illey Lane Disposal Works to Trunk sewer of Upper Stour Main Drainage Authority.
Romsley	Dark Lane, sewerage of part of
Stoke Prior	Henbrook Disposal Works - re-construction of; Astwood Lane, sewerage of (minor scheme)
Wythall	Station Road and Alcester Road, sewerage of; Peterbrook Road, Majors Green, small sewer extension (minor scheme)

#### Pail Emptying

The Pail emptying service was continued at weekly intervals in areas of the Parishes of Beoley, Frankley, Stoke Prior and Wythall.

A total of 50 households were served.

#### 4. Public Cleansing

This service is administered by the Surveyor's Department. Domestic refuse is collected weekly in the built up areas of the District and fortnightly in the more rural areas. Cesspools are emptied free of charge three times a year.

### SECTION D

#### HOUSING

As will be seen from figures under Section A of this report the population of the district decreased by 1020. At the end of the year there were 489 applicants on the Council's housing list compared with 436 at the end of 1970.

41 Council houses and flats were first let during the year whilst 105 were built by private enterprise.

Details of action taken under the Housing and Public Health Acts are included in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

### SECTION E

#### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Routine inspections of food premises were continued during the year and every effort was made to ensure clean and safe handling of foodstuffs. Further reference to the subject is made in the Chief Public Health Inspector's report.

#### Food Poisoning

One case of food poisoning was notified during the year.

## SECTION F

### PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

#### Notifiable Diseases 1971

DISEASE	Corrected Notifications
Smallpox	-
Diphtheria	-
Scarlet Fever	27
Measles	134
Whooping Cough	20
Typhoid Fever	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-
Dysentery	-
Cerebro-Spinal-Meningitis	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-
Acute Encephalitis	-
Erysipelas	-
Acute Pneumonia	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-
Malaria	-
Food Poisoning	1
Infective Jaundice	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>187</b>

#### Diphtheria Immunisation

The number of children immunised during the year was as follows :-

Primary Immunisation	359	(306)
Re-inforcing (Booster) injections	426	(286)

#### Measles

The number of children immunised during the year was as follows:-

Age at 31.12.71 i.e. Born in Year	Under 1 1971	1 1970	2 1969	3 1968	4 - 7 1964-67	8 - 16 1955-63	Total
	-	129	112	70	75	10	396

#### Rubella

The number of girls between the age of 11 and 14 years vaccinated during the year was:-

G.P.	Clinic	Total
22	328	350

### Poliomy is

The number of children immunised during the year was as follows :-

Age at 31.12.71 i.e. Born in Year	Under 1 1971	1 1970	2 1969	3 1968	4-7 1964- 1967	8-16 1955- 1963	Total
Number immunised	3	231	83	7	13	6	343
Re-inforcing doses	-	6	31	13	353	73	476

Smallpox No case of smallpox was reported.

Number of persons vaccinated (or re-vaccinated) during 1971 :-

Age at 31.12.71 i.e. Born in Year	Under 1 1971	1 1970	2-4 1967-69	5-15 1956-66	Total
Number vaccinated	5	163	62	20	250
Number re-vaccinated	-	-	4	9	13

### Whooping Cough

Number of children who have completed a primary course (normally 3 injections) of pertussis vaccine (singly or in combination) in the Authority's area during the year ended 31.12.71:-

Primary 319 (269)

### Tetanus

Primary courses (usually given in combination with Diphtheria & Whooping Cough) - 363

Re-inforcing doses (usually in combination with Diphtheria and Whooping Cough at 18 months or with Diphtheria at - 516 5 years and 8 years)

### Tuberculosis

#### Incidence & Mortality during 1971

Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 44	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 64	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-

Two cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, and one of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year.

The total number of registered cases was 51 (86) as follows:-

Pulmonary Non-Pulmonary	M	F	TOTAL
	25	23	48
	1	2	3
	26	25	51

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR

1971

To the Chairman and Members of the Bromsgrove Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

For the 27th time it is my pleasure to present the Annual Report of my Department.

As mentioned in my last year's report I feel I must refer to the premature retirement due to ill health of Dr.C.H. Phillips at the end of 1971 and to the happy relationship which has existed between all of us in the Department.

Again 1971 was a year of steady progress in all aspects of environmental health rather than one of spectacular advance in any one field.

In housing, eleven demolition orders were made and twenty-one substandard houses were demolished as a result of formal or informal action. Sixty-five discretionary grants and thirty-five standard grants were approved. Forty-four applications for Qualification Certificates were received and dealt with.

Routine work proceeded with regard to food inspection etc., All the meat slaughtered in the District was inspected, a total of 3,126 animals. Routine visits to shops, cafes, public houses were made, sixty two samples of cooked and preserved foods were submitted for bacteriological examination and Ninety-six samples of ice cream were likewise taken.

Routine visits to Offices and Shops were carried out; All complaints were investigated including much varied subjects as dumping of rubbish, drainage, noise, smoke from bonfires, unsatisfactory food; and necessary action taken.

The Rodent Control service was also maintained, giving a free service to all householders in the District, in addition to which Contracts amounting to £363 were carried out on Farms, Factories and Business Premises.

It has been a pleasure to have the helpful co-operation at all times from the Clerk and other Officers of the Council, and particularly my own colleagues in the Department.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

PEARSON P. CHAMINGS

Chief Public Health Inspector.

### COMPLAINTS.

A total of 186 complaints were received during the year 1971 all of which were investigated and appropriate action taken.

### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following are the numbers and nature of Inspections made during the year:

Houses Inspected	873
Number of inspections and re-inspections of houses	1810
Visits re complaints and nuisances	186
Visits re Meat Inspection	350
Visits re Notifiable Diseases	40
Milk and Dairies	1
Piggeries	105
Schools	7
Factories and Workshops	17
Outworkers' Premises	-
Moveable Dwellings	130
Water Supply	58
Works in Progress	634
Drainage	500
Shops etc, (re unfit food)	15
Visits to shops and food premises	345
Rodent Control	103
Canal Boats	-
Outside Interviews	761
Verminous Premises	-
Miscellaneous	597
Offices and Shops	38
Animal Boarding Establishments	47
Total number of informal notices served during the year	86

### HOUSING

#### 1. Inspections of Dwelling houses during the year:-

(i) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts	873
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1810
(ii) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	Nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil
(iii) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as unfit for human habitation	11
(iv) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) not found to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	50

#### 2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices :-

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. 108

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

A. Proceedings under Section 9, 10, and 12 of the Housing Act 1957:-

(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	-
(ii) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	-
(a) by Owners	-
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	-

B. Proceeding under Public Health Acts :-

(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	1
(ii) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
(a) by Owners	-
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	-

C. Proceeding under Sections 16 and 23 of the Housing Acts 1957:-

(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	11
(ii) Number of dwelling houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure	21
(iii) Number of Undertakings accepted under Section 16	-
(iv) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	-

General - Housing

Eleven Demolition orders were made during the year. Twenty-one sub-standard houses were demolished as a result of formal and informal action. Two Demolition Orders were revoked after the premises had been brought up to a satisfactory standard

Discretionary Grants.

Applications were approved during the year for 65 houses as against 38 the previous year.

Work was completed at 53 houses and grants totalling £37,212 were certified for payment.

Standard Grants.

Thirty-five applications were approved during the year. Certificates for payment of grants totalling £4,245 were issued in respect of 29 houses.

Qualification Certificates

During the year 44 applications for Qualification Certificates were received. Eleven Certificates were issued under Section 45 (2) and 12 Certificates of Provisional Approval. The remaining applications were under consideration at the end of the year.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

The Camping Club of Great Britain continued to maintain their holiday site at Romsley in a satisfactory manner.

Twenty licences in respect of a total of 337 caravans were in force during the year.

The Council owns and operates a site for gypsies at Houndsfield Lane, Wythall, where sites are provided for 12 caravans.

The Council owns and operates a residential caravan site at Wythye Heath, Wythall and at the end of the year all of the 98 plots were occupied.

#### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

##### (a) Milk.

As the District was in a "specified area" all milk sold to the public had to be under one of the authorised Special Designations and consequently no samples of non-designated milk were taken. It will be appreciated that a large percentage of the milk retailed in the District was bottled in other Authorities' areas where it was regularly sampled.

##### (b) Meat and other Foods

There are five licensed slaughterhouses in the District. All animals were inspected and this entailed some extra work at week-ends and in the evenings.

Following is a summary of the inspections and condemnations which took place:-

	<u>Cattle</u> <u>excluding</u> <u>Cows</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Lambs</u> <u>and</u> <u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number Killed	356	-	9	2239	522
Number Inspected	356	-	9	2239	522
<u>All diseases except</u> <u>Tuberculosis</u>					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	1	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	23	-	-	18	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	6.4%	-	-	.84%	.57%
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u>					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-

Routine visits were made to food shops, cafes and public houses for the inspection of premises and examination of food stuffs and, in the main, conditions were reasonably satisfactory.

During the year 62 samples of various foodstuffs, including cooked meats, pies, sausages, etc., were taken from premises within the district and submitted for examination. In no case was the organism of salmonella or dysentery found.

The following is a summary of foodstuffs of various kinds which were condemned as unfit for human consumption at retail food premises during the year:-

7 cwts 21 lbs Carcase Meat	103 lbs Assorted Canned Foods
2 cwts 49 lbs Offal	78 lbs Cooked meat & meat products
16 lbs Canned Meats	2 cwts 72 lbs Frozen Foods (Due to cabinet breakdown)

(c) Seven complaints were investigated during the year with regard to foreign matter and mould in food, the articles concerned being bread (2) milk (3) tinned fruit (1) and tinned vegetables (1). Investigations were carried out and the representatives of the firms concerned were interviewed.

It was not considered necessary to institute legal proceedings but warnings were issued in the appropriate cases.

(d) Ice Cream.

The total number of registrations in force for premises for the retail sale of ice cream was 96.

Seventy-Three samples were submitted during the year for bacteriological examination and the results of the samples were as follows:-

Provisional Grade 1	52 Satisfactory
2	9 Satisfactory
3	10 Unsatisfactory
4	2 Unsatisfactory

The unsatisfactory samples were followed up and satisfactory results obtained.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT

Fourteen licenses to slaughter animals were issued under the above Act during the year.

HOUSE DRAINAGE

Eight existing houses were provided with cesspools during the year whilst the drainage from 24 houses was connected to the sewer and the cesspools abolished.

Also 131 new houses were connected to sewers and 20 to septic tanks.

The question of providing sewers to various parts of the District and improving disposal works where necessary was considered by the Council during the year.

WATER SUPPLY

MAINS

Two samples of mains water were submitted for bacteriological and chemical examination and two for chemical examination only. All were satisfactory.

PRIVATE WELLS AND SPRINGS.

Twelve samples were taken from wells and springs for bacteriological examination only, of which 4 were satisfactory and 8 unsatisfactory.

Twenty-five existing premises were connected to the water main in 1971.

NEW MAINS LAID

A total of 4,104 yards of new mains were laid by the various Water Undertakings within the District during the year. These extensions were principally to supply new development in various parishes.

DISINFESTATION

No houses were found to be in need of disinfestation.

All the Council refuse tips were periodically treated for flies and crickets where necessary by the Surveyor's Department.

#### RODENT CONTROL.

A full time Rodent Operative is employed. A total of 462 infestations of private houses and business premises and 136 agricultural premises were successfully treated. A total of 1,252 visits were made.

During the year the Council continued to provide a free service for the destruction of rats and mice at private dwellings but in the case of business premises a charge was made as previously.

Fifty-one contracts were made for the treatment of business and agricultural premises during the year and the income from this source amounted to £363.

Due to the co-operation of the public, possibly because of free service, 238 infestations were notified. These were in early stages and were thus only a minor nature but it seems essential to continue the service to prevent any large scale build-up.

#### OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963.

At the end of 1971, the number of premises registered was as follows:-

Offices	35
Retail Shops	70
Catering Establishments	32

I would point out that many of the shops in this District are family businesses, not employing staff, and therefore not subject to registration under the Act.

Offices at Factories subject to the Factories Act are registered with H.M. Inspector of Factories and not the Council.

Two accidents to employees were notified during the year.

#### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1949

No case occurred during the course of the year where it was necessary to make arrangements for the burial, under the provisions of the above Act, of a person dying within the District.

#### SMOKE ABATEMENT

The number of industrial premises is not large and as a result air pollution from factory chimneys did not present a problem.

#### NOISE ABATEMENT

Complaints were received during the year mainly of noise arising from industrial premises. Informal approach to the parties concerned achieved satisfactory results.

#### ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963

Licences in respect of 17 boarding establishments were issued during the year.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

Premises	Number of			
	Number on Register	Inspections (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers Prosecuted (6)
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	85	17	-	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers premises.)	-	-	-	-
	85	17	-	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

PARTICULARS (1)	No. of Cases in which defects found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)
	Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective Drainage of floors (6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork.)	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	-	-	-	-	-



